

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03291 071758Z

67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SY-04 AID-20 DRC-01 /120 W

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R 071450Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6373

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 3291

1. ON MAY 3 FEDERAL POLICE ARRESTED FORMER BOLIVIAN VICE PRESIDENT JUAN LECHIN. WHILE NO FORMAL CHARGES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED, EMBASSY FINDS IT STRANGE THAT THE ARREST ORDER WAS SIGNED BY A FEDERAL JUDGE WHICH WOULD INDICATE CRIMINAL CHARGES, RATHER THAN BY THE INTERIOR MINISTER WHO NORMALLY HAS JURISDICTION OVER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY.

2. IN ADDITION TO LECHIN, CONFLICTING NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT SEVERAL OTHER PROMINENT BOLIVIAN EXILES WERE ALSO EITHER ARRESTED OR SEARCHED AND RELEASED. AMONG THEM WERE FORMER HEAD OF NATIONAL TELEVISION TED CORDOVA-CLAURE, AS WELL AS JORGE AND SAMUEL GALLARDO, MARCELLO QUIROGA SANTA CRUZ (EX-MINISTER OF ENERGY) AND OSCAR PENA (EX-SUBSECRETARY OF INFORMATION).

3. EMBOFF HAS CONFIRMED THROUGH PRIVATE SOURCE THAT TED CORDOVA IS STILL BEING HELD. EMBASSY IS DISCREETLY ATTEMPTING TO ASCERTAIN REASON FOR ARRESTS.

4. LOCAL PRESS REPORT MAY 7 QUOTES PRESIDENT BANZER AS SAYING HE HAD ASKED ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES TO CONTROL THE "ACTIVITIES AND EXPRESSIONS" OF THE EXILES BUT ASSERTS HE DID NOT ASK FOR A "POLICE RAID".

HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICE FORCES, ARRESTS, DETAINEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS03291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740110-0673
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740569/aaaacjwe.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINT, AR, BL, (LECHIN, JUAN), (CORDOVA-CLAURE, TED), (GALLARDO, SAMUEL), (QUIROGA, MARCELLO), (PENA, OSCAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005